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tute of Technology, and Professor H. E. Clifford, professor of electrical engineering at the institute, have been elected professors at Harvard University, in the School of Applied Science established under the McKay bequest.

DR. ARTHUR WILLIAM MEYER, professor of anatomy in the Northwestern University, has been called to the chair of human anatomy in Stanford University.

HAROLD D. NEWTON, assistant in chemistry at Yale University, has been elected professor of chemistry at the State College at Storrs, Conn.

#### DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

##### CONVOCATION WEEK

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: The leading editorial in your issue of January 8 contains much food for reflection. Those of us who were at the Baltimore meetings were offered a very unusual menu from which to choose according to our individual tastes and needs. Though one may sometimes have had to deviate from a normal ration, there is no reason why any one should have left the great meeting just closed with his hunger and thirst after knowledge unsatisfied.

Perhaps never before have there been so forcefully illustrated the advantages and disadvantages of a great program with multiple divisions and subdivisions, geographic segregation of the less loosely allied interests, and more or less effective contiguity of those more closely connected.

The purpose of this letter is to call attention to the loss experienced by a large part of the persons present of some of the choicest special "courses of the day." You enumerate interesting public lectures on several questions of broad scientific interest. Charged with the duty of attending executive sessions and the meetings of special sections and affiliating societies, I question whether a tithe of those participating in the great gathering knew of most of these opportunities until they had missed them. This resulted through no fault of officers, but through the common habit of men of looking first to the things that most immediately concern them—

and, finding so much of immediate concern, failing to look further.

Why can not the American Association provide best for such lectures by suspending all section sessions before eleven o'clock, and holding a general session of forty-five minutes' duration every morning at ten for the presentation of a masterly address? The possibilities of interesting people who are not specialists in the work of the association seems to me likely to be furthered more by such a daily broad-subject large-man address, protected from encroachment of the special sections, than by any other one step which is feasible. Evening engagements are always likely to interfere with such lectures, and the evenings are becoming more and more the property of the affiliating national societies.

Complaint is made of the multiplicity of subjects and papers offered the various sections and societies. There is little profit in quarreling with the increasing scientific activity of the country. It has come and we all want it to stay. In my own field, the secretaries in Section G and the Botanical Society of America cooperated so well that the joint program was found workable to an unusual degree; and the special Darwin and ecology sessions of the national society, devoted to papers prepared on invitation, contrasted with the more democratic sessions of the section in a way very suggestive of a good outcome from a general differentiation of society and section activities along these cleavage lines.

WM. TRELEASE

##### GRAY'S NEW MANUAL OF BOTANY<sup>1</sup>

The writer of this note is not aware whether the authors have printed an unillustrated edition of their revised edition or not. Indeed, for the purpose of this criticism this would make little difference, that is, if the present illustrated copy is to be available for purchase by students. The writer may have a misconception of the value of Gray's "Manual," but takes this opportunity to allow that misconception to be made known, if it is to be classed as a misconception. He has

<sup>1</sup> By Robinson and Fernald, seventh edition, illustrated.